

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An erasable ink for use in a writing instrument, comprising:

a solvent, and

a pigment having a flake morphology dispersed in the solvent, wherein the ink is substantially free of colorants other than said pigment and said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

2. (Original) The ink of claim 1 wherein said pigment is a pearlescent pigment.

3. (Currently Amended) The ink of claim 1 wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of mica flake pigments, ~~graphites~~, and metal flake pigments.

4. (Original) The ink of claim 1 wherein said pigment has an average diameter from about 1 micron to about 25 microns.

5. (Original) The ink of claim 1 wherein said ink exhibits an erasability of at least about 80%.

6. (Original) The ink of claim 1 wherein said solvent comprises an aqueous solvent system.

7. (Original) The ink of claim 1 wherein said ink has a shear-thinning index of between about 0.01 and about 0.8.

8. (Currently Amended) An erasable ink for use in a writing instrument, comprising:

a solvent, and

a flake pigment having an average diameter from about 1 micron to about 25 microns dispersed in the solvent, wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

9. (Original) The ink of claim 8 wherein said pigment is a pearlescent pigment.

10. (Currently Amended) The ink of claim 8 wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of mica flake pigments, ~~graphites~~, and metal flake pigments.

11. (Original) The ink of claim 8 wherein said ink exhibits an erasability of at least about 80%.

12. (Original) The ink of claim 8 wherein said solvent comprises an aqueous solvent system.

13. (Original) The ink of claim 8 wherein said ink has a shear-thinning index of between about 0.01 and about 0.8.

14. (Currently Amended) An erasable ink for use in a writing instrument, comprising:

a solvent, and

a flake pigment having an average thickness of less than about 1 micron dispersed in the solvent, wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

15. (Original) The ink of claim 14 wherein said pigment is a pearlescent pigment.

16. (Currently Amended) The ink of claim 14 wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of mica flake pigments, ~~graphites~~, and metal flake pigments.

17. (Original) The ink of claim 14 wherein said pigment has an average diameter from about 1 micron to about 25 microns.

18. (Original) The ink of claim 14 wherein said ink exhibits an erasability of at least about 80%.

19. (Original) The ink of claim 14 wherein said solvent comprises an aqueous solvent system.

20. (Original) The ink of claim 14 wherein said ink has a shear-thinning index of between about 0.01 and about 0.8.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an erasable marking on a paper substrate, comprising:

making a marking on the substrate with a writing instrument containing an erasable ink comprising a solvent and a pigment having a flake morphology dispersed in the solvent, wherein the ink is substantially free of colorants other than said pigment and said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an erasable marking on a paper substrate, comprising:

making a marking on the substrate with a writing instrument containing an erasable ink comprising a solvent and a flake pigment having an average diameter from about 1 micron to about 25 microns dispersed in the solvent, wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an erasable marking on a paper substrate, comprising:

making a marking on the substrate with a writing instrument containing an erasable ink comprising a solvent and a flake pigment having an average thickness of less than about 1 micron dispersed in the solvent, wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

24. (Currently Amended) A writing instrument, comprising:

a reservoir containing an erasable ink comprising a solvent and a pigment having a flake morphology dispersed in the solvent, wherein the ink is substantially free of colorants other than said pigment and said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

25. (Currently Amended) A writing instrument, comprising:

a reservoir containing an erasable ink comprising a solvent and a flake pigment having an average diameter from about 1 micron to about 25 microns dispersed in the solvent, wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

26. (Currently Amended) A writing instrument, comprising:

a reservoir containing an erasable ink comprising a solvent and a flake pigment having an average thickness of less than about 1 micron dispersed in the solvent, wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of pearlescent pigments, mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

27. (Previously Presented) The ink of claim 1 wherein said pigment is selected from the group consisting of mica flake pigments, glass flake pigments, and metal flake pigments.

28. (Previously Presented) The ink of claim 1 wherein said pigment has an aspect ratio of between about 1 and about 8.

29. (Previously Presented) The ink of claim 8 wherein said pigment has an aspect ratio of between about 1 and about 8.

30. (Previously Presented) The ink of claim 14 wherein said pigment has an aspect ratio of between about 1 and about 8.